

## Item 2

### **PARISH OF PINNER**

The **Meeting of Parishioners** was held on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2007 at 11.00am. in the Church Hall.

**PRESENT:** The Rev'd Simon Pothen (in the Chair), Shane Godbolt, Gordon Williams, the Treasurer, the Interim Secretary and members of the Church Council and congregation. Apologies had been received from Debbie Browne, Donald Craske, Sue and Peter Ellis, Alison and Michael Hetreed, Janet Huszczo, David Poole and Hilary Powell.

1. The Interim Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.
2. The adoption of the Minutes of the last Meeting of Parishioners was unanimously agreed. The Minutes were signed as a true record of the Meeting.
3. Election of Churchwardens. The Vicar said that Shane Godbolt and Gordon Williams had both agreed to stay on in office, and both having been duly proposed and seconded they were unanimously elected, unopposed.

This concluded the business of the Meeting of Parishioners.

### **PARISH OF PINNER**

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The **Annual Parish Meeting** was held on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2007 at 11.10am in the Church Hall.

**PRESENT:** The Rev'd Simon Pothen (in the Chair), Shane Godbolt and Gordon Williams (Churchwardens), the Treasurer, the Interim Secretary and members of the Church Council and congregation. Apologies had been received from Debbie Browne, Donald Craske, Sue and Peter Ellis, Alison and Michael Hetreed, Janet Huszczo, David Poole and Hilary Powell.

1. The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

2. **Minutes:** The adoption of the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2006 was unanimously agreed. The Minutes were signed as a true record of the Meeting.

3. **Matters arising from the Minutes:** Roger Lester asked for the fuller explanation of Space Services. The Vicar said that the issue would be discussed by the new PCC.

4. **Report on the Electoral Roll:** Joy Chittleborough reported that a new Electoral Roll had been established comprising 297 names. There had originally been 377 names on the previous Roll, although numbers had declined during the year. It was observed that the number was the lowest since 1984. Susan Cooper offered to encourage people to re-enrol.

5. **Elections to the Parochial Church Council:** An election was held to fill eleven vacancies in all. The following were duly elected for three years - Brenda Allanson, Peter Ellis, Joy Chittleborough, Alison Hetreed, Doug Yates. The following were elected for two years – Lesley Almond, Ian McDonald, Anne Payne, Paul Wright. The following were elected for one year – David Poole, Audrey Taylor.

6. **Election of Sidespersons:** A list of sidespersons/welcomers was displayed in the Church porch. Shane Godbolt thanked them all for their very hard work, particularly in view of the opening of the West Door. The Vicar added his thanks. It was unanimously agreed that they be elected *en bloc*.

7. **Report on the proceedings of the Council:** There were no comments on this Report, which had been included in the Church Annual Report.

8. **Vicar's Review of the Year:** The vicar addressed the meeting as follows:  
I suppose from a day to day point of view our strategy for growth here in Pinner Parish Church has dominated proceedings. Believing and Belonging is reaching out in all sorts of

ways. There is the ongoing training of our welcomers and sidespersons, there are the changes to the physical environment and there will I am sure be lots more for us to think about in the near future. So to all members of the PCC I say a very big thank you to all of you for your firmness of purpose and determination. And to all the welcomers and sidespersons I say a particular thanks for all that you have done this last year.

We welcomed this year the PAC Study Day the Reverend John Vincent, one time President of the Methodist Conference. He led a very stimulating morning on Radical Christianity. This left food for thought and provided us with much to think about as we journeyed together. I would want to publicise the PAC Monastic Safari which is a wonderful addition to the many activities that we do jointly with other Churches in Pinner. The PAC Worshipping Together is supported by the loyal few and we need to see what we can do to support our common worship together as we seek to advance the Kingdom here.

We welcomed this year Elizabeth as our Deacon. She possess many, many gifts not least her preaching. We are richly blessed in having her here. She has taken on the Gossiping the Gospel series and the Healing Services. These, I know have been much appreciated; In this respect I want to thank Margaret Lane and Pat Gowman who have led sessions which have opened our eyes a little more to the truths of God.

I take this opportunity to thank the Friends of Pinner Parish Church for their continuing support. It has been a difficult year in terms of looking at the Quinquennial report and assessing what needs to be done, so I do thank them along with Gordon Williams in ensuring that the Church building is in good condition.

I want to thank both Shane and Gordon for their leadership of the Church. They have been incredibly good and hands on in their approach to the Church governance. I want to thank them for their support. Shane has done wonders with the training of welcomers and sidespersons and has been instrumental in creating a very different environment for welcomers and sidespersons to operate. Gordon has been incredibly busy in steering

through some of the physical changes that need to be done and ensuring that everything runs smoothly. I am deeply grateful to them both for the tireless work that they do on behalf of all of us. Their hearts are truly in this place and I thank them for their loyalty and their love.

I want to thank my colleagues on the staff team. I thank Ian and Stuart for their support and the taking off of loads. I thank Ann Fuller for her leadership of the Christianity for Life and for Readership in this place, I thank Nick for the gifts of organisation and preaching he brings to us, to Susan for her gifts of leadership that she brings to us. We are so grateful to have such wonderful people in this place.

I want to thank James Trafford for all that he has done in this place. I also want to thank Maria for all that she does. Between them we have a formidable Youth Leadership team. The Kidz Klub has taken off and the SPACE services provide a wonderful platform for young people to truly participate in our worship and witness. It is so good to see our young people grow in confidence and faith and part of this confidence in faith has been exemplified in many of our youngest receiving communion for the first time this last year. SNIP and the addition of SNIP Extra has provided a wonderful resource for our young people to use. I think it is important to note here that for our young people these activities represent Church, it may be a model of Church alien to adults and perhaps many it is national phenomenon. I am hugely indebted to both James and Maria for all the hard work that they do, I am grateful for their love and their friendship. I want to thank Joy Chittleborough for all her hard work in the office, Joy retires this July and I want to take this opportunity to thank her for her loyalty and her diligence. Janet Huszczo, who has been doing a job share with Joy will be taking over full time in readiness for a new incumbent. I am grateful for all of Janet's hard work, particular in relation to the orders of service that she produces so competently.

I want to thank Michael and Andrew for their hard work and dedication in the running of the choir and the leading of worship through music. We have in Andrew a wonderful

organist and a person who understands the liturgy so well. Much has been said about Michael throughout this year and I will mention a few things later on, but I want to make a few comments about what he has done with the choir this last year. The choir sang at Chelmsford Cathedral this last year and this year the choir will be going to sing at Bury S. Edmunds, Michael's home town. The choir has also made a CD of such wonderful quality. The choir continues to excel and this last Holy Week was particularly memorable, I for one will not forget the rendition of Bruckner's Christus Factus Est, a fearsome piece in so many respects, but pulled off with much élan. We said farewell this year to Chris Ramsey and Charlotte Wickham-Young. But we do see them on holidays and they are enjoying themselves at University. We thank them for their contributions throughout the years and wish them well.

I want to thank Brenda Allanson and her teachers at the 9.00am Junior Church and Jill Townsend and her teachers at the 11.00am. They perform a wonderful ministry in the care and nurture of our young people. They are all joined by a wonderful team of volunteers and helpers; Mike Gregory, Geoff Bernays, Diana Bowles, Andrea Makris, Richard Hillman, David and Rebecca Poole, Richard and Sue Mattick, Pam Stephens, Deborah Pothen and Katherine Pinching, Another volunteer who does so much to help with the technical side of our life is Howard Lush. Week after week Howard loans the Kidz Kiub his extensive sound equipment free of charge. Howard and James and volunteers help to lug this enormous furniture up to the hall from Church Lane and then set the thing up in order for there to be a sound system in this place. Howard does have a history of having a bad back, I think it is highly questionable whether such an arrangement is sustainable, we do seem to be taking a liberty which is taking the mickey. It would be good if we had our own sound system here and installing it as a vital part of our updating of our plant, Howard should not have to bring his equipment up here for the reasons I have outlined. If I have missed any one out I do apologise. We are saying a fond thank you to Andrew Raj, who is one of our Children's Advocates, and to say we are also looking for a successor to him. In this vein I also want to thank Rebecca Poole

for her work as our second Children's Advocate. Many thanks to all who helped make our Holiday Club such a wonderful success this year, all the helpers I salute you for the success.

We had a brown bag lunch for our Patronal Festival and we welcomed as our preacher Fr Paul Hullyer. It was a wonderful lunch and it was very well organised. My thanks go to Morella Boon and Shane and Gordon and all who made this such a wonderful feast. This year we will be welcoming as our guest preacher the Reverend Steve Newbold, Associate Vicar of Christchurch Roxeth.

On matters of worship, I want to take this opportunity to thank Maureen and Elizabeth in the sacristy and the helpers who clean and launder and shine the silver. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful people who ensure that due care is taken of our plate and fabrics. I want to thank Nick and his servers who do so much to ensure that our services are orderly and dignified.

I want to thank David Roker and David Witney for all their hard work around the Church plant. Their love and hard work ensures that our stewardship of this place is of the highest order. I want to take this opportunity to thank Jane Lawrence, the editor of the Review for her hard work and industriousness. Thanks to Louise Washbourn, our clerk, who keeps the Births, Marriages and Deaths paperwork so meticulously for us. We have had a new person at the helm this year with our baptism visitors. We welcomed Gill Yates and I want to thank her for her work, particularly for the new Cradle Roll service which celebrates the 1 Anniversary of those who have been baptised, this is a wonderful area of contact. I want to thank Bridget Murray and all who help with the Marriage Preparation and Bereavement Visiting. We are richly blessed with this ministry and it offers comfort, advice and a gentle pastoral touch at quite vital significant times in people's lives.

We have welcomed on board this year Charles Morris as our business manager. I thank him for his diligence and hard work this year. Charles, it has been a pleasure working with you and we are delighted to have you here working with us.

We have suffered many bereavements this year, we have said farewell to Helen Martin, Peggy Wells, Cyril Ellement, Marjorie Wells, Vera Hammond, John Burlend, Doreen Manchester, Phyllis Palmer and Daphne Line. Each one of them represents a considerable part of the story and the fabric of the life here. We mourn them and pray for them, they are such a loss to us as the Body of Christ. But we are also confident because as we pray for them, we rest in the sure confidence that they pray for us.

Aidan Smith will be ordained in a few months time. It is always a sign of life that a Church produces future priests, we have not only nurtured Elizabeth Birch, but we have nurtured Aidan and we rejoice at his forthcoming ordination. He will be serving his title at S. Martin's Ludgate Hill and will be doing some duties here in Pinner. For me personally to see both Aidan and Elizabeth through this has been a wonderful experience, easily the best thing that has happened to me in nearly 20 years as a priest.

I want to thank the PCC for their hard work this year, and to the future where many important decisions will have to be made. The PCC will be discussing and making a decision on the sale or otherwise of 37 Eastcote Road, it is important that the new PCC make this decision and it is equally important that this decision is made within a framework of prayer and the needs of stewardship of our properties.

Lastly I want to thank my wife Deborah and my children. It is mighty difficult living in a vicarage with the daily impositions that life forces on you, the daily splitting in half of my time even out of hours that they have to endure. And they do endure with much humour and forbearance, and you should all be very grateful for such a wonderful family that I have got. I do thank them for all that they put up with. I thank Deborah for her skills in the home in creating in it a place of warmth and hospitality in the midst of holding down a job as a deputy head.

Thanks to all of you for all that you have done this past year and I wish you every blessing for the future as you seek to build the kingdom of God, during this time of interregnum. Trust in God, in his boundless grace, pray earnestly for the gifts of the Spirit and seek with all your

heart his will. The Lord will reward such faithfulness.

#### **9. Church Activities:**

Shane Godbolt gave a presentation entitled *Believing and Belonging; Some Reflections on the Year's Work*. Her presentation covered: *Communication and Faith Outreach* in which she described new ways of working.

*Training and Support For Faith* in which there had been a focus on welcoming and inclusiveness.

*Nurturing our Faith* in which she commented on the rich range of services noting in particular the Healing Services, Conversations at the Cliff's Edge and House Groups.

*Living Our Faith* in which she highlighted care of Church fabric, the work of the Friends and the fact we have become a Fair Trade Church.

*Faith at Work Ecumenical and other Faiths* – referring to the PAC and the Three Faiths Dialogue.

James Trafford gave a presentation on the work with *Youth and Children*. After setting out a vision for the work in this area he went on to describe:

*Kidz Klub* where attention has now been focused in the Church Hall during the 9 am service, creative learning and visiting children in their homes.

*First communion* offering the opportunity to go deeper within Kidz Klub.

*11 am Junior Church* which feeds mainly from the choir.

*Confirmation*. Marking the transition from Kidz Klub to SNIP.

*Holiday Club*. Where most non church children are seen.

*Space Services*. Where children, families and the wider congregation come together.

James went on to describe the work of SNIP, SNIP Extra and SNIP Recharge; and his and Maria's work with schools and the community. He concluded with an appeal to the congregation to become involved in promoting the work of the Church with young people.

Following a question from Stuart Natrass, James said that there were some 35 – 40 children involved in Kidz Klub; 15 – 20 in 11.00 am Junior Church; and 35 young people in SNIP. The Holiday Club had the widest ethnic mix of participants. The Vicar gave a

heartfelt thanks to James for his work with children and young people.

Rose Thompson, in a reference to Missions and Charities, hoped that we would pray for our links with Angola to grow.

**10. Report on the Financial Affairs of the Church:** Doug Yates drew attention to the lengthy and detailed section on the Financial Affairs of the Church contained in the Annual Report and Accounts. There had been one, written, question from Peter Mahrer about the treatment of the Diocesan Fund under Grants Payable under Charitable Objects. This was based on precedent. Doug concluded with his thanks to Charles Morris, the Finance Committee - Ann Fuller, Roger Lester (Stewardship), David Payne (Property), Morella Boon, Christine Ashby, Stephen Provost, Joy Chittleborough and Janet Huszczo, and the Treasurers of the various sub-groups, including the Hall Committee. The Vicar gave his thanks to Doug for his skill in managing the Church accounts and finances.

**11. Election of Auditor:** It was proposed that Sobell Rhodes be appointed as Auditors for the coming year. This was proposed by Doug Yates, seconded by Susan Cooper and unanimously approved.

**12. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church:** This was included in the Church Annual Report. Gordon Williams corrected the reference to the notice board facing the High Street. This would be renewed shortly. The forthcoming ordination of Elizabeth and many others would be at our Church. This would require the provision of video and audio equipment in the Hall to cope with the additional numbers, and the fitting of blackout blinds. Funds for this have already been approved. Aidan is being ordained on the same day at St Paul's Cathedral, travel arrangements would be publicised shortly. Gordon Williams asked for the Talent inventory, tabled at the APCM, to be completed. A suggestion was made that a simpler method of providing water in the South Porch should be investigated, rather than the current dispenser.

**13. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod:** Stephen Brown's report was included in the Annual Report and Accounts.

**14. Report on the proceedings of the PAC during the year:** Wendy Myers amplified the report included in the Annual Report and Accounts, noting that there was a small, but very loyal group from St John's who attended these functions – larger numbers would be very welcome. Caroline Wait, from our Church, has taken over as co-ordinator of Pinner Helping Hands.

**15. Vicar's Closing Remarks** The Vicar further addressed the Meeting as follows:

We live in a society which is increasingly characterised by a secular agenda. I cannot think of a time in my 19 years as a parish priest when the secular agenda of government, has impinged so drastically on people of faith. In my conversations with leaders of other faiths in the area there is a real sense that it is not other faiths that we have to take note of, but the increasingly secular agenda of society that does not take faith seriously as an integral component of people's lives. On the back of this there is hostility towards the Christian faith exemplified in Richard Dawkin's book *The God Delusion*. For those of us who have read it, it represents not an attack upon our faith but an outlining of common misconceptions about the nature of God. For example if I were to write a book about British wildlife based solely on my reading of the *I-Spy* book of British Birds you would begin to understand the kind of holes in the argument that Dawkin's produces. Do not get me wrong, Dawkins and his ilk can believe anything they want to and can pronounce on anything they like, but what they cannot do is to say that they are knocking down the Christian God on the basis of their jaundiced view of what the Christian God looks like. This is where we come in as the people of God, we are increasingly faced with the realities of living with our faith in a society which is fad led. Christians increasingly have to say, to pray and to live life counter-culturally. Part of that is educating ourselves, that does not mean reading lots and lots of interesting facts about our faith, the Gospel of Mark was written in about 60AD etc, but it means learning to pray, and praying. It means learning to study and

studying, it means reading, it means living the Christian life every single day of our life. The hallmark of this is in our personal relationships, it has to have cash value in people. We are here as a Church that is hospitable, that is open to others and to their needs before our own. I state this because it may be the blindingly obvious to me, but there are a number in this parish for whom it is not obvious. And so we have to have strategies in order that hospitality is at the forefront of what we do.

This has been the guiding principle of our strategy this year. And to people who dismiss the idea that the Church should not indulge in strategies I say this. We would not have to indulge in strategies if people were hospitable as a natural course of their day to day action. The fact that we have to have a strategy like Believing and Belonging is precisely because what is so blindingly obvious even at a cursory glance of the Gospels, is not a day to day occurrence in the life of this place. We do need to learn to be hospitable and that means changes in the way we do things and in our physical environment. To be hospitable is not to have a cheesy grin on our faces', it is to be changed by the newcomer, we are changed by the newcomer because we learn to see the face of Christ in them, and this requires that we change our attitudes. We exist for those who do not yet know Christ, so we learn to see Christ in them by being Christ for them, open, loving, accepting, giving and self emptying. We deny ourselves so that the newcomer is filled. We put ourselves out, we are inconvenienced so that others may see in us a people who want to love. And I say these things within the context of leaving you. It is both warning and challenge.

The easiest thing to do is to spend the next year or so in some kind of purdah; a living hell of Church politics as you begin to decide on a new vicar. Please, please, please, I beg of you use this time as a real time of reflecting on the things of the Gospel, you will have in Elizabeth a fine priest whose preaching and teaching will focus your minds on the things of God, but it is hopeless if that preaching sails over heads whilst people go around indulging themselves in the highways and byways of gossip, innuendo and misinformation. Some of this is even going now. Apparently, according

to some folk, I am off to Angola with a suitcase full of money garnered from flogging off 37 Eastcote Road to plough into some project. Of course it is laughable, but it is also profoundly damaging to my own reputation and profoundly damaging to the reputation of this Church, and such people who indulge in these rumours, apart from not having a life, should desist. It is also very tempting for me to focus on other things as I prepare and my family prepare for new things, I can assure that my mind is totally fixed on the things of Pinner, I cherish and love this place too much to just think about what is to come, I have all of August to do that. It would be good if the congregation would at least grant me the privilege of leading this place these last few months and not think that I have already left. I say this because I do not want my last months to be with you tackling misinformation, and gossip. I want to leave with fond memories and thankfulness.

There are many things which I would like to say to you about how much I have loved being your parish priest, the amazing responsiveness of the community. The Quiet Days, the Parish Retreats, the Pilgrimages, the Christianity for life and the Gossiping the Gospel sessions have shown that there is here a real desire for the things of God in this place. My family have opened up our home to the parish in a bold open house policy because it is simply a reflection of Gospel values, there are to be no private cliques that have been invited to the vicarage as if it were beer and sandwiches at number 10, the vicarage has belonged to the parish and we have had some wonderful times these last five years. It is this essential openness and giving that is the hallmark of parish ministry, these have been the things that I have enjoyed and loved.

But it is people who have been the essential part of any legacy. I am not into looking at buildings and seeing where the imprint has been but to people. It is people who have made an impact on me here and it is to them that I want to end with. I want to say a big thank you to Michael Turvey. I hope I will be remembered as someone who is passionate about church music, and passionate about choirs. In Michael I have found a kindred spirit and a soul who is as committed to the care and nurture of young musical talent as

anyone I have seen. It has been a real joy working with Michael and to make music together. I hope that the next choir holiday can come to Chelmsford Cathedral, I have already been looking up local boarding schools and found one in Chelmsford itself, so there are no excuses. It is vital that a Church like ours has a choir of this standard, arguments about elitism and the ever present politically correct democratisation of music that represents a Classic FM approach to Church music simply will not do if music is to flourish, we have to really think deeply about music and its place within the life, witness and evangelism of Church life otherwise it will perish under a pile of mediocrity. The prevailing culture of I don't understand therefore it must be rubbish must be overridden by a greater desire to learn to listen and to hear what is being said and sung. I am deeply, deeply indebted to Michael and his choir for teaching us things about God, his ever present beauty, his loving kindness and about the transcendent mystery of God that can only be partially understood through an aesthetic of which music is a vital part.

I turn to Aidan who is to be ordained this Petertide. Aidan and I have journeyed through this vocation for a long, long time and it will be a wonderful and fitting climax to my time here to see Aidan ordained. Aidan, you are a treasure store of wisdom and love. Your future ministry at S. Martins Ludgate Hill and here will be richly blessed, and I know that you will bring blessings on many, many people.

I finally turn to Elizabeth, The journey we have had has been equally long as Aidan's and it has simply been a joy to have you as the deacon here in Pinner, the place of your baptism. Elizabeth has already brought much to this place in the year that she has been ordained deacon. She is quite an exceptional preacher and her understanding of the beauty of the Mass will ensure that the standards of worship and the liturgy are not only maintained but improved. Elizabeth's personal qualities of openness, humour and love of people will ensure that Pinner Parish Church is in safe hands. Elizabeth it has been a real joy working with you, and your ordination will be very emotional for all of us as will your first mass, I leave you with a heavy heart, but confident that this place is in good hands.

Finally to our friends, and it is inevitable that a parish priest should make friends otherwise that person is not a human being, I say this to you the words of Dag Hammarskjold, "For all that has been thanks, for all that will be yes".

**The meeting closed at 12.45pm.**

## Item 8

### Item 8

#### **REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL DURING 2007**

The PCC met 9 times during the year.

#### ***Short report on the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2007***

It was agreed that the Parish Review would be freely distributed to the congregation, 50p in wall safe if picked up from the table.

#### Believing and Belonging

Stations of the Cross – Presentation was given by Rev'd Simon Pothen. Jonathan Hutchins to produce preliminary sketches.

#### Staff Matters

Some youth work to be delegated to Maria Trafford.

#### Committee Reports

##### Missions and Charities

Alzheimers Society to be Lent Charity

##### IT Committee

Project team set up with Diana La Rue to design a new website.

##### Financial Matters

Thanks were recorded to Stephen Provost and Charles Morris for their work on the year end accounts.

##### Fabric, Health & Safety and Related Matters

Noticeboard at front of church to be replaced. It was agreed to install ventaxias in the vestry.

#### ***Short report on the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007***

#### Believing and Belonging

It was encouraging the number of people who had given responses re: trial period.

#### Financial Matters

Accounts were circulated and approved for submission to the auditors.

#### Recommendation from Standing Committee

A recommendation was made to realise the value of 37 Eastcote Road and buy a 2 bedroom flat. It was agreed to leave the decision for a month.

#### Fabric,

##### Health & Safety Matters

The lighting outside the vestry to be boosted, costing £385. The roof at the Altar end is secure but water coming in at Tower end.

#### ***Short report on the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007***

The Vicar welcomed all newly elected Members to the PCC.

#### Appointments

Ann Fuller and Doug Yates were appointed to the Standing Committee.

#### Committee Reports

##### Hall

A report was tabled referring in detail to redecoration, storage and the installation of blinds and a sound system.

##### Financial Matters

It was noted that PCC were committed to a fixed gas consumption charge until June 2008 and a fixed contract on electricity until September 2007.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding 37 Eastcote Road. There was concern about the sale and purchase of a more modern property closer to the church. The proposal to sell was not carried.

#### PAC

It was reported that 100 people attended the opening of the Monastic Day, 200 were at Compline and over 300 people took part throughout the day.

#### Fabric & Health and Safety

The hall floor is being cleaned during Autumn half term and the outside vestry lock is to be replaced.

*In view of the interregnum a number of special meetings were held.*

**The PCC had a short business meeting preceding the Section 11 meeting. For personal reasons Gordon Williams was retiring earlier than anticipated as Churchwarden and the Standing Committee had met to discuss urgently finding a successor.**

***Pre-Section 11 meeting was held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2007***

An outline of the policy and procedures during the interregnum was given and a copy of the Appointments Procedure circulated among the PCC prior to the meeting together with the 2001 Parish Profile.

A small group of people were required to update the Parish Profile.

***Short report on the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2007***

#### Committee Reports

The Finance Committee accepted the estimates for work to be done on 37 Eastcote Road. The total estimates came to £21,386 but it was recommended to allow £23,000. The property is to be managed by Gibbs Gillespie.

It was reported that church repair work needed to be done – roofing, down pipe and West Tower refurbishment.

#### PCC committee structures

Shane Godbolt spoke to a paper which was distributed describing present structure of committees. Believing and Belonging gives coherent framework for mission and ministry. It was felt that many people doing a little was preferable to a few people doing a lot. Co-ordinators were needed for flower arrangement, church cleaning and disability issues.

After 13 years, Joy Chittleborough's last day in the church office is 4<sup>th</sup> July. This will be marked by several events. Joy donated a Legelium Fall to the Church.

***Short report on the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2007***

A Stewardship Group had been formed who were meeting for the first time in July. It was felt unwise to have a major fundraising campaign this year and a request for an inflationary increase was suggested.

The Treasurer reported that he had received a reminder asking us to accept a 9% increase in Common Fund for 2008, the main reason being given as the cost of clergy pensions. After discussion it was proposed that an inflation based offer to the Common Fund for 2008 of £94,000 should be made and the offer be reviewed half way through the year.

A notice was to be put in the Bulletin with regard to a farewell for Simon Pothen after Evensong on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July.

***A meeting followed for the purpose of meeting the requirements of Section 11 of the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986.***

A draft Parish Profile describing the conditions, needs and traditions of the Parish had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was agreed that the Churchwardens and PCC Secretary be responsible for finalising the draft and submitting it to the Patron and the Bishop with the formal Section 11 Meeting response.

A draft paper setting out the Personal Qualities and Specific Competencies of a New Incumbent was also circulated.

It was unanimously agreed that Shane Godbolt and Phil Lawder act as our representatives in connection with the selection of a new incumbent.

***Section 12 Meeting on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2007***

The purpose of the meeting was for an exchange of views with the Bishop and others on the Parish Profile and to talk about the process that will lead to a new incumbent.

***Short report on the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2007***

The Treasurer presented the accounts for the six months to 30<sup>th</sup> June.

A tenant has been found for 37 Eastcote Road.

Electricity Contracts have been renewed for a 3 year period. Costs have gone from £2,500 to £3,700 for a full year.

With regard to budgets for 2008 – money is only to be spent which has been budgeted for.

***Short report on the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2007***

Committee Reports

It was felt that a committee which embraces all communications was needed.

IT

Diana La Rue spoke about the re-vamp of the new website, due to launch in November.

Missions and Charities

Peter Wilson spoke about the work of the committee. Twenty/twenty five charities are given to each year.

Interregnum Matters

It was reported that James Trafford would be leaving on 11<sup>th</sup> November and he was thanked for all his hard work.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the vicarage.

It was proposed that the diocese, the parish and the new incumbent investigate the options around developing the vicarage site in a way that allows the parish to sell some of the property it owns and consolidate onto the site of the present vicarage. The concept was to create a 'Church Close'.

It was also proposed that the church buy the bottom section of the vicarage garden for future hall development.

Certain refurbishments will be made to the existing vicarage by the diocese for the new incumbent in the first instance.

***Short report on the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2007***

Committee Reports

Hall

It was confirmed that a £50 deposit is required from hirers of the hall. Teenage party bookings will be declined.

Children & Youth

CRB forms to be brought up to date before James Trafford leaves. It was pointed out that James and Maria have done a considerable amount of schools work – James will leave the names of school contacts.

Finance

The Treasurer presented the Accounts for the 9 months to 30<sup>th</sup> September. It was pointed out that stewardship income was not meeting budget. A major legacy of £50,000 had been received.

Youth Worker

It was stated that the plan is to move ahead with recruiting a new full-time youth worker with the full endorsement of the new incumbent.

*Audrey Taylor*  
*PCC Secretary*

## Item 10

### CHURCH ACTIVITIES

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Hall Committee

The committee (Michael Hetreed – acting chairman, Dorothy Natrass – secretary, Robert Bunn – treasurer, Diana Bowles – bookings, Sue Bardwell – invoicing, Pam Stephens, Carolyn McDonald, Alison Hetreed,) has met 4 times since the last APCM. There have been no changes of officers or membership.

In the last year blackout blinds have been fitted by The Blinds People and are so far working well. The wall below the kitchen hatch in the foyer has been covered with material to prevent or disguise the marking that was previously a constant feature. The piano has been replaced with a better one purchased at modest expense from a parishioner. It is anticipated that a permanently installed sound system will be a reality within the next few months.

The whole complex was redecorated internally in the course of the summer and for a time at least is looking very smart – care is required to keep it that way. It is now 14 years since the hall was reopened after the extension and some of its fittings are showing their age – eg door furniture, but for the most part these can be renewed as necessary. The fire alarm system may at present need overhaul or replacement. In the course of church youth activities two of the north side windows in the main hall have been broken in the past year and the glass replaced with (current standard) toughened glass. (The third window was similarly broken and replaced the year before). Youth leaders have now arranged for the placement of protective boards over the windows during their sessions.

There have been some changes of users of the hall; Pinner Organ Society have ceased their monthly concerts and it seems that no more amateur dramatics will be undertaken in the

hall. After three Saturday evening parties in a short period left the hall in a damaged or dishevelled state we have agreed to cease letting the hall for use by teenage parties even though this may mean some reduction of activity and of income.

There are continuing difficulties with security – principally doors and windows being inadvertently left open but also some locks being broken and barriers broken down. The gate adjacent to the hall front door has been repaired and is again secure. It is incumbent on all church members who use the hall to be aware and take responsibility for properly securing its doors and windows.

There are continuing difficulties with rubbish disposal; David Roker frequently is required to spend several hours sorting the contents of full wheely bins to avoid non-collection and or fines. To prevent this all hall hirers are required to take their own rubbish home and bins will for the most part be kept within the hall garden away from public access. Church users please recycle responsibly.

We remain much indebted to David Roker for his work maintaining both the structure and fittings of the hall and the peace of mind of its many users.

*Michael Hetreed*

#### Mission & Charities Committee

The Lent Project in 2007 was to raise funds for a drop-in 'café' in Harrow and Wealdstone for the Alzheimer's Society. The Society would establish a support group for patients with Alzheimer's and other form of dementia. Although there were groups in Northwood Hills and Hayes, there is none for the 2,604 dementia sufferers in Harrow. Linda Matthews, branch manager of the Society came to talk at the launch of the Appeal. SNIP provided a Lent breakfast and the VOCE concert supported it. A total of £5,522-56 was raised and the Society expressed its great thanks for our efforts. However the charity had problems getting a venue for the café. Then it received an additional legacy and was *able to*

employ a worker to take patients from Harrow to the café in Northwood.

A total of £16050 has been distributed to charities this year. There is a varied mix of charities of different size, aim and remit. The Committee did not re-band any charities pending the arrival of the new vicar, who would probably have fresh priorities.

The Lent Appeal 2008 is for FROK UK Friends of Khwendo Kor. Khwendo Kor aims to address the needs of women and children in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. The charity was established in 1993, employs 177 staff and works in 270 villages. It has provided education to 13,903 girls and 2,245 boys in 388 community based Schools. It works to enhance the economic status of women through enterprise. Almost 700 women have been supported in enterprise development. This work can be unpopular in the area and leaflets opposing their work are regularly distributed and two workers were badly injured by gunfire on a charity vehicle. In view of the political difficulties in the area, additional checks were made to ensure the funds used would be properly managed. The charity satisfied the Committee that all funds were tightly controlled.

The Appeal is aimed at health care and included service delivery and capacity building to improve women's access to health services. One component would be a mobile van, fully equipped and furnished, with a health team of one female health visitor and a trained birth attendant. This strategy would give rural women and children access to improved health services. With FROK's support, KK would be able to refer complicated delivery cases to a health facility in time to save mother and baby. Free medical camps would be set up to benefit 1500 children directly. The projected area is the frontier region of Bannu. The total sum required is £5626.

*Peter Wilson*

### **Information Technology (IT)**

In January 2007, at the instigation of Simon Pothen and the Churchwardens, I was asked to lead a small group to revamp the website.

There was a feeling that the existing website, whilst having many redeeming features, was in need of a facelift. The team – Howard Lush, James Trafford, Janet Huszczo, Shane Godbolt and Gordon Williams – started work in February. Richard Lawrence provided some valuable guidance on technical issues and practical pitfalls to avoid.

Our starting point was the parish vision as set out in **Believing and Belonging**. The design brief reflected this vision, encompassed ideas on the look and feel of the website, included a practical list of contents and identified the key management issues.

A prototype was built which enabled the team to focus on the many issues to be considered in such a complex task, for example:

- ensuring the content reflects the breadth of activity within parish and the need to cater for all, in particular attracting younger members through a vibrant youth section;
- creating the site as a first port of call for information about the parish;
- reviewing and transferring data from the old to the new site;
- getting the technology right;
- choosing which photographs to use;
- selecting the right shade of blue;
- establishing a distributed management from a central hub in the Parish Office.

Over the next few months, the team worked diligently and met regularly as we built and refined the prototype. We recognised that we were developing a site that will continue to grow and change and we have endeavoured to sow the seeds to encourage that.

The website was launched on Sunday 18 November and is fulfilling its key aim as a primary means of communication within the parish – [www.pinnerparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.pinnerparishchurch.org.uk)

Particular thanks must go to the team, especially Howard and Janet for their skills, hard work and good humour in creating a site of which we can be proud and continue to use and support.

*Diana La Rue*

## Social Responsibility Committee

The function of this committee of the PCC is to draw together and highlight areas of concern where it usually affects pastoral matters or the wider community. We hold a “watching brief” over a number of activities. “No news” is generally “good news”.

- a) Harvest: A successful appeal for the Harrow Association for the Blind (on the advice of the M&C Committee) raised around £1,000. The produce donations and flowers were distributed to those around us.
- b) KIT (Keep In Touch): 10 people are being visited, and the scheme is working well.
- c) Car Lifts: The numbers have fluctuated considerably over the months, but there is currently no problem in meeting requirements.
- d) Christmas (PAC) Lunch: Was well attended in St John’s hall, with about 60 people plus an equally large number of helpers, with the new-found ‘Madrids’ at the helm.
- e) PAC Welcome Lunches: All are now at the Love Lane Methodist hall because of easier access, and are well attended - around 55 or so each time.
- f) Bereavement visiting: See separate report.
- g) Marriage Preparation: See separate report.
- h) Baptism Visiting: See separate report.

*Nick Ridge*

## Stewardship

As we all are aware the stability of our church finances is dependent on regular planned giving by members of our congregations. It, together with the gift aid it generates, is our main source of income and it is needed to cover the running costs of our church and its activities. The budgeted figure for stewardship giving for 2007 was around £148,000. This figure was calculated from returned pledges and estimates of which 2006 givers would be likely to continue giving.

In fact in 2007 stewardship giving was £143,035. We were able to claim gift aid at 28% on this of £38,337. This figure was raised by 228 donors representing 275 members of our congregations. We are grateful to everyone who gave. The annual

amounts given varied enormously with the average being £520 per person.

The stewardship campaign in October 2007 showed that, in 2008, we need to raise £156,000 to meet running costs not covered by other sources of income. Current pledges and giving records indicate that we can hope to achieve a figure of £142,800 which, with the new lower gift aid rate at 25% from 6<sup>th</sup> April, will generate approximately £35,300 in gift aid. Sadly increased giving by 40 people has been balanced out by the loss of some donors. A cause for concern is that just over one third of our stewardship income is given by just 18 donors.

We are pleased that Trevor Mitchell has agreed to work with Christine Ashby as Stewardship Recorder in 2008. We wish to record our thanks to Roger Lester who retired as Stewardship Recorder early in 2007 and Christine Ashby who undertakes the weekly task of banking and recording donations.

*Morella Boon*

## Children and Youth Committee

The Committee has spent some time managing the interregnum caused by James and Maria resigning as co-youth workers as well as supporting them whilst they were in post. We have concentrated on ensuring that the provision for Children and Youth is maintained during the break. The Chairman has also attended a meeting about extended schools hosted by the PAC.

Priorities set by the committee have been

1. Improve facilities at Kidz Klub in the hall – sound system, PowerPoint and curtains.
2. Try to set up a co-educational Beaver Colony to replace the Brownie Colony.
3. Guidelines for leaders to be put in place.
4. Committee will support youth work in actively selling the vision.
5. Recognize the involvement of youth in disparate ways such as helpers at Kidz Klub and membership of SNIP.

Membership of the committee to include: Representatives of the Choir, ‘Beavers’, Pinner Nippers, Kidz Klub and Junior Church

*David Poole*

### **Sunday at 9am: Kidz Klub**

We have now had a full year of our new KidzKlub format and it's working really well. Each term we follow a theme which links into a DVD – anything from real people through cartoons to Lego characters. Most Sundays consist of some together time when we sing a couple of songs (often with actions), play a game (sometimes very messy!) and watch a DVD clip which leads us into our group sessions when we explore the story of the day in more depth and in ways which are age-appropriate. Most weeks we have some craft but sometimes we might have a quiz or other activity. We then join the 9 o'clock service at some point during the Eucharist.

On the first Sunday each month KidzKlub remains in the hall for the whole session. This gives us more time to spend on each of our activities and we usually end the session by coming back together in the hall for a song.

KidzKlub has led a number of SPACE services throughout the year. In the main these are non-Eucharistic services and although they do not follow the usual service outline they contain recognisable elements but, as Eric Morecombe once said, not necessarily in the right order. Dr Who (in several guises, naturally!) featured heavily in our Christmas SPACE service, enabling several members of KidzKlub to add 'appeared as Dr Who' to their CVs.

We currently have over 50 members 'on the books' and a regular attendance of between 25 and 35. In addition to the adult group leaders we have a growing and loyal band of teenagers who willingly tumble out of bed early on a Sunday morning in order to help. I would like to say a very big thank you to all leaders and helpers and a particularly big thank you to: Howard Lush without whom we would not have sound or visuals; Elise Allanson, who manages to sing enthusiastically at 9 o'clock in the morning (and encourage everybody else to so); James and Maria, who until November masterminded the whole operation – we miss them!

*Brenda Allanson*

### **Sunday Evenings – SNIP & SNIP Xtra**

**SNIP** has between 40 and 50 teenagers on the books with around 30 attending week to week. We meet on a Sunday evening to play badminton, football, board games, PS2, table tennis or just relax in the chill out room. We often relax and catch up over hot chocolate and something yummy! We've also enjoyed some great trips from rounders in the park to ice skating. We have a real mix of teenagers – from some whose parents attend church to those for whom SNIP is their first encounter with the church. Many Snippers also help at Kidz Klub and Holiday Club. SNIP Xtra continues to meet during the holidays when everyone returns from University. We all keep in touch via e-mail and during the holidays often congregate in Starbucks to catch up!

*Elise Allanson*

### **Holiday Club**

This year's Holiday Club attended by around 90 children took us to outer space with the Captain (James) and his hapless sidekick (Maria). They travelled back in time and learned how important it is to build our lives on Jesus. Each day the children played games and did craft and on Friday we had a fancy dress party with the finals of our talent show. The Holiday Club service on Sunday was an opportunity for everyone to have a glimpse of what the week had been about. As ever, James and Maria led a great band of helpers, young and old, without whom the week would not be possible.

*Brenda Allanson*

### **Brownies**

Guiding continues alive and well in Pinner! The 5<sup>th</sup> Pinner Brownie Pack, meets at St Luke's on Wednesdays 6.15-7.45pm and we are pleased to have Brownies from the Parish Church with us. We have taken part in a Division Thinking Day Event, completed a County Arts Challenge and had an entertainments evening the last year. We are taking part in a County All Section Going For Gold Event at our Campsite and Holiday Home this year and are also planning a Pack Holiday! The 11<sup>th</sup> Pinner Guides held a residential at Gaddesden Row and tried their hand at

Archery, Crate Stacking, Shooting, Wall Climbing etc at Phasels Wood Scout Site. If you have a daughter who would like to be a Brownie or Guide and take part in similar exciting activities or if you can offer some help please contact Jackie Diamond, Pinner and Headstone District Commissioner and local Brown Owl and Guide Guider preferably by email [jackie.diamond@ntlworld.com](mailto:jackie.diamond@ntlworld.com) or by phone Home: 01582 512863 or Mobile: 07813 083998)

*Shane Godbolt and Jackie Diamond*



### **11am Junior Church**

The age distribution of the children has changed this year with more younger ones now coming. During the year we have had up to 15 children attending. We have had a great variety of activities, including creating stained glass windows (which, at the time of writing, are on the windows of the first side room of the Church Hall) and cookery as well as the more usual craft activities.

We have had our usual sessions each Sunday in term time, although the 'terms' have been shortened a little to mitigate the shortage of adults available. Unfortunately, we lost three leaders during the year but have since managed to recruit two, plus one new helper, and others have done more sessions. Supporters and leaders have done sterling work, planning and running sessions that are both enjoyable and instructive for the youngsters, and giving additional help at short notice when it has been needed; they deserve our thanks. We would be delighted to welcome anyone who might contemplate joining us, perhaps initially just to observe, to see if they feel they could make a contribution: we do urgently need more people both on the rota and who might be able to help at short notice.

*Jill Townsend*

### **Pinner Nippers**

Pinner Nippers is a voluntary run parent/carer baby and toddler group, which has been running since 1984 in the church hall. There is one session each week held on Monday morning from 9.45 – 11.45.

We take children up to aged three. We can take up to 30 parents/carers with their children. We are members of the "Pre-School Learning Alliance" and as such are insured and abide by their regulations.

The fee for the term is £20 per family. The group welcomes new members and operates a waiting list. It is recommended that you register your interest at least nine months before you require a place.

There is tea/coffee/juice and biscuits at each session as well as the provision of a wide range of toys for children. There is also an activity table with play-dough, drawing and crafts. For the last 15 minutes of each session we have a music time with songs and rhymes. At Christmas we hold a party with a 'surprise' visitor!

As a parent/carer run group, we are all allocated a week each term on the rota where we help to set up the toys and serve drinks and snacks.

The group's aims are to provide an opportunity for parents/carers to meet others in similar situations and to encourage the children to develop their social and all-round development in a friendly environment.

For details please contact Danielle Musto on 07932 799056.

*Danielle Musto*

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## **Pre-School Playgroup**

We currently have 7 staff on our payroll, which allows us to offer a staff ratio of 1 adult to every 4 children. Most of our staff have the relevant early years qualifications.

There are 35 children on our register this term, 25 children at each session Tuesday to Friday and 12 on Monday when we use one of the small side rooms.

We currently are completely full and have a demanding waiting list for September 2008.

We had a complete change of Committee in September 2007 so where for the second year running unable to have our October Fun Day, but have recruited new fundraisers and have held several fundraising event in the local area which were very successful.

We are looking forward to our Fun Day/Open day on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

*Susan Smith*

## **GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Servers, Lay Assistants and Intercessors.**

The Summer months provided some quite exciting activity for all of us, with Confirmation, Patronal festival, Ordination and Elizabeth's first Mass, all fairly close behind each other as well as the usual fare of the feasts of Pentecost, Corpus Christi and Trinity.

### **Servers.**

I would regard last year (2007) as a year of mixed fortunes. Several of the older young people had already gone to university, which is marvellous, but the removal of Simon and his family to Chelmsford left gaps which it has not yet been possible to fill. We therefore hope that the congregation will understand that although it would be desirable to have a full team every Sunday at 9.00am; without imposing undue burden on the residual few, this is just not on. We do try, though, to have a full team for high days and holy days. There

is another factor, and I believe it is this, without any intent to be provocative or critical. The current worship pattern for our young people is not especially aligned to the present 9.00 am service. There needs to be a bit of a "drawing together" of the two modes, so that the young people may feel integrated as servers or whatever. We are working on it.

The greater spread at 8.00am is a fantastic relief for the "old few", and works well, but we are occasionally short of a crucifer at 11.00 am. We are grateful for the example of Laurie Beattie who has finally laid down his alb after an undisclosed number of years both of life and serving. His quiet dignity and orderliness will be long remembered.

### **Lay Assistants and Intercessors**

I believe this to be a good year. Several of those more recently licensed have managed to feel confident enough to take on a wider range of "duties", in particular intercessions, with the extra commitment involved. Elizabeth, at our Staff meetings, has asked us for what she calls examples of "Kingdom Spotting", and I was delighted to be able to quote the foregoing as being a very significant example. It is, perhaps, difficult for some to feel that they are part of a "team" because of the spread of services and the need to alternate duties over the weeks, but that is what we are and I believe that awareness is growing. I look forward to even greater diversity in 2008.

In conclusion, I wish, on behalf of the Church, to thank most sincerely all those who help in any way with the Liturgy and our worship, and that includes Servers, Lay Assistants and those who just compile the intercessions, as well as those with greater responsibilities who find themselves on the list as a matter of course. Their, your, contribution is invaluable and emphasises the enormous lay participation within this Church.

*Nick Ridge*

### **Baptism Visiting**

In 2007 there were 22 baptisms, some of them at the 9o'clock service and a few at 11am. On Sunday afternoon, 20<sup>th</sup> May, we again held a service for all the people who had been baptised in the previous year, and their

families. A few more people than the previous year attended and we all had tea in the hall afterwards.

I continue to send out cards and church information to children on the anniversaries of their baptisms.

I would like to thank all the baptism visitors for their help in preparing families for baptisms. If any one would like to become a baptism visitor, please contact me. It involves only a few hours a year, at your convenience, and is a worthwhile and pleasant outreach.

*Gill Yates*

### **Bereavement Visitors**

During 2007 our team of bereavement visitors offered support to 41 newly bereaved families, including several children, most of whom were referred by our clergy, GPs, Continuing Care nurses or by themselves. We do, of course, offer support to any member of the congregation suffering a bereavement.

However, it is not always possible for us to be aware of such situations if the funeral has not taken place here, so we hope that anyone who would welcome our support would contact one of the clergy who will refer them to me. Any contact with a bereavement visitor always takes place in strict confidence.

The Harrow Bereavement Care annual conference was entitled 'Adult & Childhood Loss: the Link' with Jenni Thomas of The Child Bereavement Trust. For the first time it was held at the Middlesex New Synagogue in Harrow and the meditation afterwards was led by the Revd. Elizabeth Birch.

Our annual Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving for the Departed held in November and the Lights of Life Tree in the Lady Chapel over the Christmas period were as usual well attended by members of the congregation and others in the community.

Our visitors organised a Social Evening with entertainment by the Herga Swing Band and raised £1,107 for Harrow Bereavement Care which offers ongoing training and support to our visitors.

We are very grateful to Sue Bardwell, Elizabeth Catto, Sylvia Colley, Sue Ellis, Ann Fuller, Alan Johnston, Lorna Lonsdale, Emmie McGregor, Heliane Muller, Anne Payne & Terri Trimmer whose continued commitment to the visiting and other events mentioned above is unstinting and much appreciated by bereaved people in our community.

*Bridget Murray*



### **Pinner Guild of Church Bell Ringers**

We manage to ring for morning and evening services on most Sundays, even if there are only four members who are able to turn up.

Early in the year we welcomed West Lodge school, the children always find the bells a fascinating part of the church visit and enjoy 'having a go' at chiming the treble bell.

We were pleased to celebrate the ordination of Elizabeth Birch on 30th June with some excellent ringing. Elizabeth herself was delighted with the sound of the bells pealing as she left to go to the hall.

Another vital part of our service is to ring for the weddings, this year only seven, but as usual all eight bells were rung.

Our annual dinner was held at La Giralda last February and we enjoyed another dinner at Friend's Restaurant for Cecily George's landmark birthday!

Pinner Pantomime evening gives us an opportunity to open the ringing chamber to members of our community and, last

November, some 50 people visited to watch our demonstration and learn more about bell ringing. We also rang as part of the St. George's Day festivities on Sunday 22 April.

We honoured the life of Winnie Burrell by ringing after her thanksgiving service on 28 December, this was much appreciated by her family.

We offered an introductory lesson in bell ringing as part of the Parish Auction. Dorothy Nattrass and David Chittleborough were the successful bidders and their prize will be a tour of the tower and bells plus hands-on instruction, to be delivered after Easter. Two more ringers. . ?

We still need more ringers! Yes, it is a fact that, despite three learners Angela, Gaynor and Margaret who joined our band this year and are proceeding very well, we require cover when ringers are on holiday or simply away on a Sunday.

Do think about it, it really is great fun and good exercise!

*Anne Payne*



### **Choir and Church Music**

The choir has had its customary full year, singing at well over 100 services, plus almost as many rehearsals in that time. This represents a tremendous commitment by both choristers and parents - a fact often overlooked when comments are made about the occasional choir Sunday off!

They all deserve a big "thankyou" from us all. Again we have had

Bishop's Awards (2) and Dean's Awards (1), plus the annual Venables Awards. As

A token of his appreciation of the music in our Church, Simon, (our last

Vicar), has funded an Annual Award for the most diligent Junior

Chorister and this was first awarded at Advent to Celia Gould. The Vicar's

Departure also meant the loss of 3 substantial members of Junior Choir, all had

Gained various awards- their loss has been very evident in the Vestry!

August saw another of our bi-ennial choir tours, this time to St. Edmundsbury

Cathedral for a week of singing all the services, residing in the rural setting

Of Culford School - a Methodist Foundation and incidentally, my old

school!

Thanks to the Jazz Concerts Funds the Vestry received a much needed

facelift- lighting, ventilation, shelving all much improved, the first refit

since it was built over 40 years ago - a much pleasanter working

environment.

Our cantors at 9.00am have continued to lead our worship in an exemplary

fashion - though we could do with more people able and willing to stand at

the front and sing. The reliance on Junior Choir members, whilst good

experience for them, does mean they sing 3 services and 2 rehearsals in

the one day!

Once again the Music Festival was a success and just over £7,700 was

Given to the Harrow Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre.

*Michael Turvey*

### **Christianity for Life**

Our seventh "Christianity for Life" began on January 29<sup>th</sup> 2007 and ran for 15 weeks on

Monday evenings . Based on the book, "Emmaus, the Way of Faith", Part 1 of the course deals with basic Christian belief, Part 2 with growth as Christians and Part 3 with living the Christian life.

Our leaders / facilitators were Morella Boon, John Canvin and Ann Fuller and Simon joined us on most Mondays and gave valuable input,

especially in the session on *Sharing Holy Communion*. Valerie Wright from the Grail led a helpful evening on *Learning to Pray* and the following week we enjoyed a masterly overview of the Bible from Elizabeth Birch. We looked at the *Life and Ministry of Jesus* through the medium of the animated film, the *Miracle Maker*. Each session gave us the opportunity to share our thoughts and experiences in small and large groups. On two occasions we enjoyed a snack together at the end of the session as well as celebrating the end of the course with a party.

As always, the course had the dual purpose of preparing adults for Confirmation and enabling those already confirmed to look again at what it means to be a Christian. 5 adults were confirmed on June 17<sup>th</sup> and one was also baptised.

I would like to thank Simon for his teaching and helpful insights as well as the tour of the church on the last evening of the course. Thanks also to Morella and John above all for helping to create a safe place for discussion, learning and sharing but also for so much else: leading sessions, giving lifts, printing handouts, preparing the room and organising refreshments. Thank you to all the course members for what we learned from each other as we shared our Christian journey.

*Ann Fuller*

### **Church Cleaning**

This report does not cover the vestry cleaning for which there is a separate report by Dorothy Natrass on the work done by her and her team.

We remain very much in need of help for general church cleaning. We are indebted to a number of people for their help and especially to Morella Boon and Maureen Craddock, who in addition to many other roles contribute hugely to keeping things spic and span. Ann Kirkley keeps the children's corner clean and tidy and several stalwarts amongst Church Watch kindly do dusting and vacuuming during their sessions. I know there are many not named and please be assured we are grateful for your contribution.

We have experimented with Saturday morning 'blitzes' open to all! Warmest thanks to those of you who support these endeavours, especially the regulars; please, please can we have some new faces though!!

We are fortunate in our beautiful church, which gives pleasure to so many visitors and worshippers during the year. Please therefore do consider this important work and either join the next Saturday morning 'blitz' or if there is something you would be willing to do on a regular basis, either on your own or with a friend, then please get in touch.

*Shane Godbolt, Churchwarden*

### **Vestry Cleaning**

This important task has been much more pleasant since the decoration of the vestry, expertly done in August by Dennis Ord and colleagues. Thanks to all who helped to finance and supervise this major project. It is important to keep the vestry sparkling clean for all users, not just church-affiliated but also concert and school personnel. To that extent the vestry is part of the public face of the church. More volunteers are needed to spend an hour a month cleaning. Many thanks to our current small but devoted group.

*Dorothy Natrass*

## **Church Library**

Emerging again, having shed its previous heavy coating of display boards, the Church Library remains a helpful resource for its regular band of discerning readers. These number about 5% of those on the Electoral Roll so there is considerable room for improvement. The Library is there to help anyone seeking advice, information or guidance on spiritual and theological matters. And of course it is now the centre for material specially selected for use by House Groups. Thanks go again to those who have donated books to the Library during the year; these supplement material specially purchased for it from time to time. Last summer a stock check plus weed-out of older material was carried out.

*Margaret Birkinshaw*

## **Church Watch**

This year, with the death of Winnie Burrell we lost a long serving member of the Church watch team, her contribution will be missed by us all. Also missed will be Betty and Brian Rolph who have decided to retire from the team after many years service for which we are most grateful. We are pleased to welcome Emmie McGregor who has also taken on responsibility for keeping the service booklets and books in order. Members of the Church watch team take on various "housekeeping" tasks and I would like this year to thank Jenny Youle who folds the weekly bulletins and Muriel Lawrence who vacuums all the carpets in preparation for the weekend services.

The Church Watch team aims to provide a welcome to visitors and keep an eye on our church. We are hoping to recruit volunteers willing to give one hour a week. If you can help please contact me.

*Morella Boon* (020 8866 2120 or mboon8@aol.com)

## **Creative Workshop**

Members meet regularly in the Church Hall on the second and fourth

Thursdays of the month for a morning of creativity, coffee and chat. Work is in progress on a "rag-rug" technique decorative panel, and on two long kneelers to match the one installed in the Church last year.

*Jenny Lawrence*

## **Flower Arranging**

At the end of 2007 Sheila Clout decided to relinquish her leadership of the church flower arranging team. After some consideration and knowing that Sheila was willing to support me in my efforts to take up the challenge, I decided to take over from her.

Together with several of the team, we undertook the decoration of the church for Christmas, and following that into the New Year there were four requests for memorial flowers which was a pleasure to fulfil. In fact the memorial arrangements lasted right through to the start of Lent. Now that the church is without flowers, we will have time to re-charge and prepare to decorate for Easter. I warmly thank the flower arranging team for their support and look forward to working together in the coming months.

If there is anyone who would like to join the flower arrangers, it would be a pleasure to have you on board.

The most exasperating aspect of the job so far has been my attempt to open a new bank account with one of the banks in Pinner. I have invited Maureen Craddock to join me in the running of the account and she has agreed. Together we have filled in mandates as requested. We have been asked to return and fill in additional forms, due to the inefficiency of the bank, to enable an account that we thought would be best suited to our needs. We have had to return no less than three times because the incorrect forms had been used... and so it has continued. The final outcome: Maureen Craddock and Maureen Wilson will both manage the account and hopefully we will succeed with future transactions when we purchase flowers from various sources.

We have dates for only three weddings so far this year and we are prepared to fulfil any further requests we receive.

I will end this note by thanking Sheila for all the work she carried out during her leadership over thirteen years. I hope I can live up to her high standards.

*Maureen Wilson*



### **Gardening Party**

Faith Holland, under the guidance of Winnie Burrell, has co-ordinated efforts throughout 2007 ensuring that our Church gardens are in good shape, ably assisted throughout the year by Sue Sabry-Grant and Maureen Craddock, and several others on an occasional basis. David James continues to mastermind most of the rose bushes, other than the new Peace roses in the Memorial Garden, which are pruned and cared for by David Roker. David James has been tending the roses for over 30 years, for which the Church is extremely grateful. He has indicated that it is nearly time for him to “hang up” his pruning secateurs, and we would welcome a volunteer to take his place.

A big effort last Spring brought a transformation in the area by the lych gate, with all the ivy being removed from the Loudon Memorial, and some trees removed, and undergrowth cleared. Richard Godbolt made several trips to the Council tip, thereby saving the Church from having to hire a skip to clear away the resulting rubbish. We were very grateful that the local Scouts (and their parents) gave up so much time to break the back of “the jungle”. Many hands made light work!

Before her death Winnie planted many bulbs, particularly by the wall leading from the lych gate to the South door, so every time you see the beautiful array, please remember Winnie’s efforts over very many years. Particularly

welcome were her timely refreshments, for we had several specific working mornings, which gave us the energy to garden for an hour longer than was originally intended!

You never get a second chance to create a first impression, and the state of our gardens is an important part of creating a favourable welcoming impression to newcomers and visitors alike, and our thanks are due to Faith and all who help, either regularly or by giving the odd hour or two throughout the year, in all weathers, to make our gardens beautiful.

If you feel able to contribute any time occasionally, then please let Faith know through Janet in the Church Office (020 8866 2676).

*Gordon Williams*

### **The Friends of Pinner Church**

The Friends continued to raise money by a programme of social events throughout the year to assist in funding repairs to the church fabric.

During February we held a luncheon and evening event in close succession; between May and September we ran our series of Sunday Afternoon Teas, offered refreshments in the hall rooms on Pinner Fair Day, ran a coach to the interesting town of Bury St. Edmonds to hear our choir sing Evensong and hosted a Bring-and Buy-Coffee Morning in August.

Our Autumn Fair was amended to fit in with changing times; the new version of the fair making its debut in October. We provided light refreshments for the jazz concert evenings throughout the winter months

In November we held a highly successful ‘Auction of Talents,’ and sold also our hand re-constituted Christmas cards.

Work to the tower seems to be nearer to starting, and the Friends have undertaken to pay for the work.

*Ronald Haslam*

## Home Communion

We are most grateful to our dedicated team of home communion visitors.

They regularly take communion to those parishioners who cannot get to

Church, either on a temporary or more long-term basis.

*Jenny Lawrence*

## House Groups

Of the 3 new housegroups which began in 2006, two were affected by the leaders' ill health and work pressure. At a meeting with Ann Fuller in May 2007 the four leaders agreed to form one group and this combined group now meets regularly with eleven on their books. The third group has now disbanded after the loss of one group member to a new job and co-leader Sr Judith's removal to the convent at Ham. Some of the members are currently attending the ecumenical Lent groups. During the autumn John Canvin led a new group formed from some of those taking part in the 2007 Christianity for Life course. Some of this group would like to continue and are looking for more members.

Elizabeth Birch has had to give up leading her ecumenical group: Althea Thatcher now leads it. The other 5 established groups continue with an average membership of 6. "New" and "old" leaders met Elizabeth and Ann in June 2007 to give reports on their groups and to look at new material.

Some people have expressed a desire for Bible Study groups and perhaps this can be looked at when Paul Hullyer arrives.

In April/May 2007 we added to the housegroup resources two sets of a 5 part York Course: Can we build a better world – learning from William Wilberforce. We also bought two sets of Set all free, a 5 week Bible study from Churches Together. In November we bought two sets of The Lord's Prayer, a 5 part York course which has proved very popular (another set has now been purchased). (The York Courses normally have 5 sessions and consist of a well-produced course booklet with an audio tape or CD with contributions from well known religious speakers).

Thanks to Margaret Birkinshaw for cataloguing the material which is on the bottom left hand shelf of the church library.

We should like to thank all the leaders and the host(esse)s for creating a safe place where members of our congregation can explore and deepen their faith and be supported in their Christian journey. As well as studying, talking and praying together, a very important part of belonging to a housegroup is a chance to build up close relationships with a small group of people (not always possible in a large congregation).

Elizabeth and Ann welcome any enquiries from people wanting to join a group.

*Elizabeth Birch 020 8868 5363*

*Ann Fuller 020 8868 6168*

## Marriage Preparation

A recent survey of British Social Attitudes has found that the majority of people in this country now believe there is little difference socially between being married and living together, even when raising children. This may explain why the number of weddings here continues to fall with six taking place in 2007 compared to 25 ten years ago.

Most of the couples who were married here last year had no previous connection with the church so it is gratifying that they wanted God's blessing on their marriage and they were appreciative of our support in the marriage preparation groups.

We are grateful to Rebecca & Gerry Boyle, Alison & Michael Hetreed and Sue & Richard Mattick who continue to lead the groups with sensitivity and enthusiasm.

*Bridget Murray*

## Pinner Parish Review

Jane Lawrence handed over the role of Editor to me in November 2007. During this interregnum the Review team (Margaret Birkinshaw, Anne Davis, Linda Hedderick and Janet Huszczo) have tried to keep to the same format that Rev'd Simon Pothén introduced

when he was convenor, but realise there may be changes when Revd Paul Hullyer arrives.

Unfortunately youth articles have ceased since James Trafford left, but hopefully these will be resurrected on the appointment of a new youth worker.

Thank you to all who have contributed over the past year. Please keep sending articles of interest, whether written in longhand or sent via email, so that the parish magazine continues to be a good read!

*Joy Chittleborough*

### **Sacristy and Sacristy Rota**

The past year has been a very busy one for all of the sacristy team, rota helpers and the verger! I offer my heart felt thanks to everyone who has played a part, however small, in helping the smooth running of both the normal and the extra demands of the last year.

### **Sacristy Rota**

We now have 13 helpers including myself, who work in pairs on Saturday mornings to clean fill and prepare the eucharistic vessels for the Sunday services. We have acquired four new helpers this year but Mary Pocock, Sheila Moore and Mary Thomas have retired after many years of loyal service. I hope they enjoy their "freedom".

### **Sacristan/Verger**

From the beginning of the year Father Simon, Michael Turvey and I were involved in the planning of The Monastic Safari, a PAC event involving all of the Pinner churches under the guidance of the monks of Ealing Abbey. On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May each church threw open their doors to all comers, who were able to sample many activities and talks and attend Compline at the end of the day. This was declared to be a great success, which was the reward for the considerable time and organisation involved.

The months of June and July were filled with extra special events, firstly the Confirmation of 5 children and 6 adults on Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> of June by Bishop Pete which was followed by the combined service of Patronal Festival the next weekend. The Bishop returned on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May for the Ordination of 10 candidates

including our own Elizabeth Birch. It was a great honour to hold this service in our small and beautiful church, but required a lot of planning, innovation and guesswork to cater for the numbers involved. We had to house the overflow in the church hall and borrow vessels from St. Lukes. The Hall rooms were used as robing rooms and the Verger's gown was resurrected to add dignity/authority to the visiting clergy's procession. A quick clear up was required afterwards as many of us headed to St. Pauls for the ordination of Aidan. The following weekend Elizabeth celebrated her first Eucharist here, at a very well attended combined service, during which she was presented with a surprise gift of a golden cope. The end of July saw the final service of Simon and a farewell party and presentation. All of these events required an unpredictable but flexible provision of wine, wafers and vessels and vestments, and I am particularly grateful to Elizabeth Metivier and Lloyd Davis for their unstinting help and support.

August was a bit of a nightmare because the decorators descended on the vestry, sacristy and attached rooms. Although long overdue, and very pleasing now finished, the process of clearing shelves and cupboards while continuing to hold services, funerals and weddings, caused a lot of stress and hard work. The dust produced was considerable and very invasive and residues are still being found on music books and in drawers. I did use this opportunity to remove most of the servers and clergy vestments to my home to mend and clean before returning them when it was safe to do so. I would like to thank the loyal helpers who turned up one Saturday morning to help scrub and dust the vestry floors and chairs before they were returned to full use that afternoon for a wedding followed by a Jazz concert in the evening and baptism the next day!

On October 25<sup>th</sup> I was privileged to meet the new vicar and his wife to show them around the church, vestry and sacristy. Meanwhile I am trying my best to support Elizabeth during a long and demanding interregnum. Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November, was an international interfaith initiative day of space called "Just this Day" and we had a reflective quiet space set up in the Lady Chapel.

### **Nave Altar Gold Frontal**

Some of you may be aware that this was in urgent need of repair. As we have been unable to persuade the Sarum people to do it, Joy Daffon has agreed to undertake the daunting task with my assistance. It has been necessary to dismantle the drape to replace the rotting silk on either side and has presented quite a problem in matching fabric and embroidery silk. Joy has very kindly provided long-term use of her dining table to the project which is likely to continue for some time to come.

### **Verger**

This year I have unfortunately had to verge for the funerals of several well loved friends and colleagues, all of them well attended, and strangely clustered in groups often around Easter or Christmas, but the only Requiem funeral was not for one of our regular members. Of the seven weddings I managed to be off duty for was the most spectacular and colourful one, at which the bride was almost 1hr late! Thank you Bridget for deputising.

*Maureen Craddock*

Robin Woolf, of the Pinner Orthodox Synagogue, is the Chair of the Dialogue. Meetings are very friendly although sometimes strong views are expressed. We would like to see more members of the Church attending as the number of representatives from St John's have been falling. Whilst we have good contacts with the Harrow Mosque we would like to see more Muslims present at our meetings; if you have any Muslim friends do try to encourage them to attend, they will be most welcome. If you have any queries or suggestions concerning the Dialogue do speak to me.

*Alan Johnston*

### **Three Faiths Dialogue between Local Churches, Mosques and Synagogues**

We have met three times since the last report; regretfully one meeting had to be cancelled due to the tragic death of the son of the principal speaker. Attendances have been around about the thirty to forty mark. The topics discussed were:-

- 1) What we can learn from the Discipline of Prayer.
- 2) How can we help each other to live together *in harmony*?
- 3) Why do so many Children fail to follow the Faith pattern of their Parents?

## Item 11

### THE FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH

#### Treasurer's Report and Summary Accounts for 2007

The full statutory accounts and annexes audited for 2007 are being made available separately (in the South porch) with only a summary presented in the Annual Report. Further copies of the full report can be obtained from the Church Secretary.

The Statement of Financial Activities ("SOFA") combines all the activities into a single statement differentiating between Unrestricted and Restricted Funds.

At the end of 2007 total fund balances stood at £1,205,029 distributed as follows:-

#### Unrestricted Funds:-

General	32,199
Special Receipts	97,101
Hall Committee	7,252
11 am Refreshments	962
Capital Reserves	219,881

Fixed Assets 794,373

#### Restricted Funds:-

Jazz in Church	25,117
Tower (Bellringers)	956
Flower Arrangers	783
Quinquennial works	2,050
Youth Worker salary	19,608
Music bequest	747
IT/software/web/training	4,000

The full SOFA, Balance Sheet and, most importantly, details of the Ordinary Income and Expenditure of Fund "A", the Church General Fund, are appended at the end of this summary.

The ancillary activities, which are run independently throughout the year, are integrated into the main accounts at the end of the year in order to comply with the Charities Act 1993. The income in the Special Receipts fund includes legacies and other small items.

The day to day running of the Church, and routine activities are financed from the General Fund.

#### Review of the year

**Total Incoming Resources** in all funds of £378,194 exceeded Resources Used by £30,172. This was however after the receipt of a substantial legacy of £50,000 and after taking into income £18,984 of rent from "curates" houses and interest on deposits of £21,130, these later two amounts resulting from past giving. However 37 Eastcote Rd received an expensive refurbishment costing some £22,325 and the Church Hall was redecorated at a cost of £10,760. Taking all these items into account it might be reasonable to suggest that on a normal running basis there was a deficit of some £30,000 if a proportion of the refurbishment and redecoration is taken.

The highlights in **Incoming Resources** were:

- planned giving showed an increase of £6,692 or by 3.8%
- collections was boosted by a £7,000 donation from the Jazz in Pinner group
- fees for the use of the Church showed a doubling of income over 2006

- rent from houses was up by £2,591 or 15.8% as a result of subletting 37 Eastcote Rd from September 2007
- interest from deposit accounts rose by £6,335 or 42.8% due to increased interest rates and the depositing of the £50,000 legacy.

**Resources Used** increased from £289,916 in 2006 to £348,021 in 2007. The main reasons were:-

- an increase in our youth worker costs following a move from a church property to their own accommodation for which additional salary was paid.
- an increase in the costs associated with “sundry activities” – ie Jazz, Music Festival which were matched by increased income.
- a significant rise in “upkeep” costs – work in the vicarage garden – 37 Eastcote Rd refurbishment – and £29,185 in Church maintenance (2006 £4,737) which included the redecoration of the church hall, refurbishment of the vestry which was effectively financed by Jazz concert profits and blinds in the church hall
- fees, subscriptions & gifts absorbed costs associated with the departure and ordination of clergy.

### **Reserves**

The church, like other organisations, needs to secure its future and ensure that we can weather a downturn in our normal income pattern or some unexpected, immediate or exceptional need for expenditure. It is for these reasons that we hold reserves. It is, however of concern that without the £50,000 legacy in 2007, we would have significantly eaten into our reserves.

### **The outlook for the future**

Our Budget for 2008 shows a deficit of some £39,000. Our stewardship campaign in the autumn showed only a small increase and we still struggle to achieve donations commensurate with operating costs from a number of regular communicants and visitors for special services. Since the Budget does contain £31,000 of what might be described as exceptional expenditure, the PCC has agreed not to authorise some of that expenditure until we see how the year is turning out. To some degree the outcome for the year will be affected by the date of employment and cost of a new youth worker. The PCC has authorised a budget for 2008 which would result in using some 10% of our liquid non restricted reserves.

Douglas M Yates  
Hon. Treasurer

**CHURCH GENERAL FUND (FUND A)**

**Ordinary Income and Expenditure**

	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Planned giving	182,057	
Other voluntary income	18,008	
Activities for charitable objects	2,948	
Sales from fundraising activities	4,703	
Investment income	37,994	
	<u>245,710</u>	<u>245,710</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Cost of generating funds	190	
Diocesan and deanery quotas	91,920	
The Ministry	14,903	
Support costs	24,224	
Activities	21,249	
Building costs - upkeep	68,001	
Management and administration	29,413	
	<u>249,900</u>	<u>249,900</u>
<b>Deficit</b>		<u>(4,190)</u>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2007**

	2007	2006		
	Unrestricted Funds (inc fixed assets)	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Donations, gifts, grants, legacies	251,079	17,903	268,982	212,345
Activities for charitable objects	3,568	39,109	42,677	36,432
Activities for generating funds	26,421	0	26,421	26,630
Investment income	38,192	1,922	40,114	31,188
Other incoming resources	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>319,260</b>	<b>58,934</b>	<b>378,194</b>	<b>306,595</b>
<b>RESOURCES USED</b>				
<b>Cost of generating funds</b>	190	0	190	163
<b>Charitable expenditure</b>				
Grants payable under charitable objects	108,220	9,790	118,010	115,655
Cost of activities in furtherance of objects				
The Ministry	14,903	23,693	38,596	34,546
Support costs for services	24,224	2,115	26,339	25,879
Activities	4,736	37,822	42,558	38,907
Building costs	0	0	0	1,750
Upkeep	91,427	248	91,675	47,465
Management and administration	29,655	999	30,654	25,551
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<b>273,355</b>	<b>74,667</b>	<b>348,022</b>	<b>289,916</b>
NET RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS	45,905	(15,733)	30,172	16,679
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS				0
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES	45,905	(15,733)	30,172	16,679
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>	<b>45,905</b>	<b>(15,733)</b>	<b>30,172</b>	<b>16,679</b>
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2007	919,863	68,994	988,857	972,178
Revaluation of Curates' houses ( Investment properties)	186,000		186,000	
<b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2007</b>	<b>1,151,768</b>	<b>53,261</b>	<b>1,205,029</b>	<b>988,857</b>

## BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2007

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Tangible fixed assets	794,373	608,715
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Prepayments	3,915	3,387
Debtors	9,117	7,449
Short term deposits	384,697	300,568
Cash at bank and in hand	31,243	84,332
	<u>428,972</u>	<u>395,736</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Creditors due within one year	5,829	4,955
Deferred income	12,487	10,639
	<u>18,316</u>	<u>15,594</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	410,656	380,142
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	1,164,029	988,857
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>1,205,029</u>	<u>988,857</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>		
Unrestricted	357,395	311,148
Restricted	53,261	68,994
Capital funds	794,373	608,715
Total	<u>1,205,029</u>	<u>988,857</u>

## **REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH AND PARISH HOUSING**

2007 saw some considerable improvements to parts of our Church.

The least noticeable to the Congregation, but particularly appreciated by the Clergy and the Choir, was the installation of Dexion shelving in the Vestry, which enabled the increasing number of boxes of Music required for our Services to be stored more effectively, two Extractor fans installed in the Vestry roof [in the previous Summer the temperatures in the Vestry, which accommodates the whole Choir for practice every week, reached unacceptable heights] and the re-decoration, at the same time, of the whole of the Vestry, Sacristy, toilets and Old Office. Thanks are due to Stuart Natrass for organising the decorating, to Michael Turvey for masterminding the installation of the shelving, and to Maureen Craddock for all her efforts in moving and protecting the cassocks, vestments, Altar frontings etc. during a disruptive and difficult time. Much of this was funded by a contribution from the Jazz Fund.

All this was undertaken during the comparatively short period whilst the Choir was away on holiday, and all was ready when the Choir returned.

The opportunity was also taken, at the same time, to brighten the back lighting to the two stained glass windows between the Vestry wall and the Choir stalls, with spectacular results, particularly the window nearest the High Altar. Extra lighting also now enables the main stained glass windows behind the High Altar and the stained glass window behind the Lady Chapel Altar to be much brighter. In addition to the appreciation heard from members of our own Congregation, particularly at Midnight Communion and the Nine Lessons and Carols Service, admiration was also expressed by outsiders attending our Jazz and Musical concerts.

Mark Arnold was responsible for masterminding the renewal of the board by the South door showing all the Curates and Incumbents of

our Church, for the old parchment had run out of space. There should be enough space for at least another 700 years!

For Health and Safety reasons lighting has been increased outside the Vestry door and between the Church and the Church Hall, inside the porch and outside the West door, outside the emergency exit from the Lady Chapel, and over the South door. An outside power-point also let us put up, for the first time, a lit Christmas tree outside the West door.

A special light over the organ had to be renewed during the year, and remedial work undertaken on our ancient Font.

The installation of a machine dispensing cold water in the South porch received a mixed reception at first, but it has certainly been a welcome addition, judging by the amount of water consumed – not least by members of the Gardening Party!

All the usual safety tests have been carried out to electrical and fire-fighting appliances, ‘hanging things’ and the boiler. The Church gutters are professionally cleared twice a year, and any loose tiles replaced.

It was reported last year that a new Notice Board had been erected outside the Church facing the High Street, the wording and composition having been determined by Simon.

Once it was known that he was to remain our Vicar for only a few months longer it was considered that the new Vicar, once appointed, should have a major input into the design and wording – that has now taken place, the order placed, and it should be installed (if it hasn’t already) imminently.

There was no change in the property owned by the church in the last year. Following an extensive refurbishment, 36 Eastcote Road has been rented out on a three year contract. Our thanks to David Payne and his team for their excellent work in bringing this refurbishment in on time and on budget.

Our thanks are due to a great many people, too numerous to mention, who give of their time and talents, often unobtrusively, but particular thanks are due to Nick Ridge, Roger Lester and

Keith French for overseeing the heating, lighting and sound respectively, and for the invaluable work undertaken throughout the year by David Roker. We are, as ever, grateful to the Friends for their continuing support.

*Gordon Williams and Philip Lawder*

#### **Item 14**

#### **Report on the Deanery Synod : May 2007 – March 2008**

Harrow Deanery Synod has met 4 times during the last year, and discussed issues of finance and a visit by the Bishop of London in the October synod for a presentation on London Challenge 2.

In the May meeting, there was a presentation by John Butler, Diocesan Director of Finance and Operations. He showed that there was a small deficit in 2006 and 2007 of £80k and £50k in the diocese. The basic reason was an increase in clergy pension contributions, which were once covered by Church Commissioners. In 2008 the diocese will need £1m more, which will mean an increase of common fund of between 8% and 9%. This will meet pension contributions, increasing longevity, inflation and deferred property maintenance.

After coffee, there were questions from the floor, and then a parish profile by St. Mary the Virgin., Kenton. In 1324 there was a Chantry Chapel in 'Kinton'. With the rapid expansion of 'Metroland' a Mission District was established in 1927 with a church dedicated to St Leonard. The present church was dedicated in 1936. There has been an enormous social shift from when Metroland was mostly white middle-class, and the local population is 75% Hindu, and have a temple in the parish. The church's mission statement reads worshipping God and saving souls.

The July meeting, held at Christ Church, Roxeth, began with announcements by the Area Dean, among others, that Simon Pothen was moving to Chelmsford Cathedral as Canon Precentor and thanking him for his work in Pinner. The accounts of the synod were presented and passed. Rev. Mike Talbot, as Area Dean, announced that his term of office

expires --- the Treasurer made a presentation and thanked him for his services during the last 5 years.

Rev. Mark Philps, Team Rector, made a presentation describing the work of the recently opened YMCA hostel, next to the church. 42 units are now full and up-and-running, with excellent staff, some volunteers helping with IT and the reception at Roxeth Gate. The project is run by a group comprising members from YMCA and the church, with strong links and social events established between them.

Clive Scowen then gave a background talk on the 2003 Time for Decision consultation overseeing the need for parishes to be confident Common Fund contributions were being properly used. Area Councils were set up to ensure the process was fair. There were difficulties over judging viability of churches and choices of whether 'we ought to do it', and training sessions were held for the visitors. The synod split into small groups for discussion and some issues that arose were: needing to live with people of other faiths, young people moving away due to the high cost of housing, and a need for a Deanery Directory of contacts and needs.

The October synod was a joint session with other deaneries which met at St John's, Greenhill, and listened to a presentation by the Bishop of London on London Challenge 2. He outlined his case for building up the Christian community in London, seeking, though, to work with members of other faiths, but furthering plans for growth and mission in the Church. The Diocese should reflect on the need for a clear sense of identity through the implementation of 7 commitments, which includes sharing and spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ and equipping his servants for mission.

In the February synod, held at All Saints', Harrow Weald, at this time of year, the Hillside Presentations are put forward where various churches request a slice of the grant of £3000 for their own particular groups. After recommendations and voting, St Paul's, South Harrow, was allocated £2000 for creating more soundproofed partitions for rooms to separate their Sunday school activities; £1000 was given to St John's, Stanmore, to create an older youth

group and to buy more equipment and technology for it; £800 was allocated to Soul Survivors, South Harrow, for new equipment, and £200 given to Harrow Bereavement Council for office equipment.

A parish profile was presented---- All Saints' Church has good attendance at Sunday services, a robed choir and a music director involved with traditional and contemporary worship. The church has formed a midweek meeting for open discussion, a vision of mission, and re-structuring of the interior of the building to meet the needs of the community. We then had various reports from synod representatives. Harrow SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) has representatives from all denominations, faiths, teachers, and a rep. from Harrow Council. It involves setting up new syllabi, giving religious advice on clothing, jewellery etc, and reporting on books, CD's etc. There was another talk on the varied tasks and activities of the school governors of Holy Trinity Primary School--- it is a busy job with high expectations.

Clive Scowen called in late to give a General Synod update--- he had attended the address to Synod by Rowan Williams on sharia law, which diluted anymore controversy. Other reports included a setting up of a code of conduct for mission initiatives, the rights of church employees to have housing and pension benefits, a concern about the government's wish to increase casinos with an influence on gaming spending nationwide, and a request for any visitor who enters a church should have easy access to a bible!

*Stephen Brown*

## Item 15

### The Pinner Association of Churches



#### Christians in Pinner Working Together

The new Chairman for 2008 is Anne Savage from St Andrew's United Reformed Church, who has taken over from the indefatigable Revd Michael Hall of the Methodist Church. Wendy Myers is the new Vice-Chairman and St John's will take the Chair in 2009.

The main event for which the PAC will, no doubt, be remembered in 2007 is the **Monastic Safari Day**, held in May. This was attended by over 300 people from far and wide, coming and going throughout the day to attend the numerous events. The Monastic Safari can be viewed as an example, fitted into one day, of what the Pinner Association of Churches does throughout the year.

The Morning Office, which opened the day, and the service of Compline, which brought it to a close, echo the regular **Worshipping Together** services which take place during the year. The Meditation and prayer experienced during that day exemplifies **Praying Together**, which occurs every month in one of the Pinner churches. We were taught the 'Art of Being Still', introduced to the Rule of St Benedict and studied the Psalms. The PAC increases its depth of Christian understanding through the **Lent Speakers, Lent Study Groups and Study Days**.

There were practical sessions in illuminated lettering, bread making, the use of herbs, and treasure hunts and quizzes for all ages. The latter are reflected in the annual **Family Fun Day**, held in July. The 'Quiet Spaces', Prayer Labyrinths and Silent Meditation offered during the Monastic Day echoed the **Good Friday Silent Walk of Witness**, in which over 300 people took part last year.

The sessions on Gregorian Chant were a specialised form of the PAC **Songs of Praise in**

**the Park**, which took place in August, with some 500 participants. **Carols by Torchlight**, beside the Christmas tree in the High Street, also attracted a large crowd, including a group of children who sang for us.

The **Coffee Shop** continues to flourish as a focal point for people to meet weekly and was the venue for the **'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'** in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief in September and also for the **Christian Unity Prayer Lunch** in January of this year.

The **Welcome Lunches** (report elsewhere) continue to be very popular, aided by volunteers and by members of **Pinner Helping Hands**, who transport the guests. We were, indeed, very grateful for the generous offer of Caroline Wait of our Church to be the new co-ordinator for this valuable group. The highly popular and successful **Christmas Lunch** held at St John's was again organised by Elizabeth and Marcos Madrid of St Luke's, together with their invaluable and experienced team of supporters.

**Christian Aid Week** in May, organised by the hard-working **Christian Aid and Justice and Peace Group**, raised over £8,000 in Pinner, and Gareth Thomas, M.P. came to address the Pinner Churches at Love Lane Methodist Church in September on World Poverty.

There will be another opportunity to address world issues during **Fair Trade Fortnight** in February and March this year when members of the PAC will help staff a display of Fair Trade products in the foyer of Sainsbury's. This year the Bishop of London is backing the Fair Trade campaign and all the churches in the Diocese have been contacted to promote this, so it would be good to have some more volunteers from St John's this year, as well as at the **Family Fun Day** on July 5, when there will be a stand advertising Fair Trade products.

The **Three Faith Dialogue** (report elsewhere) continues and the Dialogue on the different approaches to Prayer, held in November, underlined one powerful element which the three faiths have in common, especially when, at dusk, the Muslim members performed their evening prayer rituals before the whole meeting in St Luke's Parish Centre.

The Pinner Association of Churches, therefore, can be seen to be very active among the churches and in the wider community. During the past year Churches Together in Eastcote have joined in several activities, including this year's Lent Discussion Groups, and we were all invited to their Tea Table Conference at St Andrew's United Reformed Church (which is a member of both Associations) for a talk and discussion in January on the 'Search for Justice'.

Many thanks are due to the following people who represent St. John's on PAC groups and in the wider community: **Christian Aid and Peace & Justice** – Stephen Brown; **Communications** – Joy Chittleborough; **Good Friday Walk of Witness**– Margaret Birkinshaw; **Co-PAC Representative** – Ann Fuller; **Pinner Helping Hands co-ordinator** – Caroline Wait; **Songs of Praise in the Park** – Terri Trimmer; **Three Faiths Dialogue** – Alan Johnson; **Welcome Lunches** – Elizabeth Catto.

Thanks also go to Maureen Craddock, Morella Boon, Michael Turvey and the Rev'd Simon Pothen, who contributed so much to the Monastic Safari Day and to all those who have helped with the Christmas and Welcome Lunches and with refreshments and the sound system for PAC events held at St. John's.

In conclusion, the PAC strives to fulfil the main purpose of the Covenant that its 'calling continues towards ever-closer expressions of the unity proclaimed in the Scriptures, in the service of God's kingdom'. Let us all do our part to further that unity.

*Wendy Myers*

### **Report on "PAC Welcome Lunches"**

There were 6 lunches and the guests were also invited to a Nativity Play given by the pupils of Innellan House School in December.

Between 50 and 60 guests came each time and many of these were given lifts by the Pinner Helping Hands drivers.

Anyone who would like an invitation to these lunches – which are particularly for people on their own – should contact Valerie Hastie (8428 5610) or Elizabeth Catto (8868 8911)

*Elizabeth Catto*